

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05144 192232Z

21

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJ: NPG-DANISH VIEWS ON MEMBERSHIP AND PHASE III

REF: A. STATE 204657 DTG 272305Z AUG 75

B. USNATO 4451 DTG 221040Z AUG 75

1. DANIS NPG STAFF GROUP REP (JENSEN) VISITED MISSION OFFICER ON SEPTEMBER 18 TO DISCUSS AGENDA PLANNING FOR THE HAMBURG MINISTERIAL MEETING, AND ORGANIZATION OF PHASE III. HE SAID, CONCERNING THE FORMER, THAT THE US-PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS ON EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND ON FORCE POSTURE ISSUES, AS WELL AS THE GERMAN IDEA ON AGENDA ITEMS ON "FREE DISCUSSIONS" (REF A), PLACED THE ROTATING MEMBERS OF THE NPG WHO ARE NOT PRESENT AT MINISTERIAL MEETINGS AT A DISTINCT DISADVANTAGE, SINCE THE ABSENCE OF SUPPORTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS CONTAINING AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS MEANT THAT THESE COUNTRIES HAD NO WAY OF REGISTERING THEIR VIEWS. HE SAID THAT THE GERMAN DELEGATION HAD INFORMED HIM THAT AT LEAST ONE ROTATING MEMBER OF THE NPG HAD LINKED ACCEPTANCE OF THE GERMAN IDEA FOR AGENDA ITEMS ON "FREE DISCUSSIONS" WITH AGREEMENT TO EXPAND PARTICIPATION AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO ALL
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PAGE 02 NATO 05144 192232Z

MEMBERS OF THE NPG. HE SAID THAT WHEN THE GERMANS TABLE FORMALLY THEIR PROPOSAL FOR FREE DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEMS, THE QUESTION OF MEMBERSHIP WOULD MOST LIKELY BE RAISED. HE SAID THAT, IF IT WAS RAISED, HE WAS CERTAIN THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD SUPPORT

DOING AWAY WITH THE CURRENT ROTATING SYSTEM. HE SAID THAT CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS SHARED THIS VIEW, AND THAT HE BELIEVED THAT OTHER ROTATING MEMBERS WOULD BE OF A SIMILAR MIND.

2. CONCERNING PHASE III, DANISH REP SAID THAT THERE WAS A STRONG FEELING AMONG SOME OF THE SMALL COUNTRIES ON THE NPG THAT THE CONDUCT OF PHASE III SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THE THREE LARGE COUNTRIES (US, UK, FRG) AS OCCURRED IN PHASE II. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE VALUE OF A SMALL DRAFTING GROUP TO DO MUCH OF THE WORK, BUT SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THERE SHOULD ALSO BE PROVISIONS FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NPG TO CONTRIBUTE DURING THE DRAFTING STAGES. HE ASSUMED THAT THE US, UK AND FRG WOULD PARTICIPATE ON ANY SMALL DRAFTING GROUP THAT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT DENMARK BELIEVED THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THE SMALL COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED, A VIEW HE SAID WAS SHARED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NPG. MISSION OFFICER SAID THAT WHILE THE US FAVORED A SMALL GROUP APPROACH FOR INITIAL DRAFTING, WE WERE ALSO DESIROUS OF DEVELOPING AN ORGANIZATION FOR PHASE III WHICH WOULD PERMIT ALL MEMBERS OF THE NPG WHO WISHED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK. HE SAID THAT THERE COULD BE VARIOUS WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS AND, AT THIS STAGE, WE WELCOMED DISCUSSIONS OF ANY IDEAS THAT NPG MEMBERS MAY WISH TO MAKE.

3. COMMENT: WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE THE NPG MINISTERIAL MEMBERSHIP QUESTION SURFACE THIS FALL, EITHER IN CONNECTION WITH POINTS RAISED BY DANISH REP IN PARA 1 ABOVE, OR, AS NOTED IN REF B, IN CONNECTION WITH FRG PROPOSAL TO HOLD ALTERNATE MEETINGS OF NPG IN BRUSSELS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DPC.
END COMMENT.BRUCE

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